Viability of Haldia Fertilizer Plant

527. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleaded to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the union of Huldia Fertilizer Plant for making the unit viable;

(b) if so. what are the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. These proposals have been discussed with the representatives of workers. However, the final outcome would depend upon the technical and financial viability of the proposed investments and availability of funds through budgetary sources.

Government directives to pharmaceutical Industry Association

528. SHRI ASHIS SEN :

SHRI MOHAMMAD AMIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to slate :

(a) whether Government's directives to the Pharmaceutical Industry Associa tion regarding practice of charging more than notified rate on price-controlled bulk drugs have had any effect; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Association to such directives so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) There has been slight decrease in number of complaints of overcharging. However, the Indian Drug Manufacturers Association feels that the Drug Pricing Policy under Drug (Price Control) Order, 1987 is not prag-' matic and the prices fixed under DPCO are generally unrealistic.

Production of Industrial spirit

529. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what was the production of industrial spirit in India during the last three years; and

(b) what was the import of industrial spirit and its value during that period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMIMALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) Industrial spirit is Ethyl Alcohol (Ethanol) used in industrial applications. The production of ethanol and the quantities used in industrial applications during the last three alcohol years are as follows :

(in lakh litres)

Alcohol year.	Total production	Qty. used in industrial applications.
1988-89 . .	7973	3127
1989-90 . .	9278	3076
1990-91 . .	10,149	4597

(b) No import of industrial spirit has been reported during this period.

BICP recommendations on prices of Betamethasone

530. SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of price increases recommended by the BICP in its various reports submitted after implementation of DPCO, 1979, in respect of Betamethasone and its salts;

(b) what are the prices notified by Government after DPCO, 1979 for Beta-methasone and its salts and whether it is a fact that there is a vast difference between BICP recommended prices and Government approved prices;

(c) if so, the difference in each case and what are the reasons for the same;

(d) whether it is a fact that the producer has been given benefit; and if so, what are the details of such benefit;